

May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

**RE: Government to Government Consultation with the DNR leadership:**

Russell Kirkham  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
550 W 7th Ave, Ste 900 B  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577  
russell.kirkham@alaska.gov  
Phone: 907.269.8650

Dear Mr. Kirkham:

NVT – IRA Tribal Council formally requests ongoing quarterly Government to Government meetings with the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to address the Chuitna Coal Mine Proposal, Draft SEIS and any other issues of concern. We would like these meeting to begin in June or July of 2011.

We request respectful and meaningful State – Tribal relations and would like to initiate this process as soon as possible.

Please do refer to Administrative Order No. 186 which indicates this very important standing order. Relevant aspects of Order No. 186 are pasted below for your reference.

**“ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 186 - The State of Alaska's Relationship with Tribes**

*I declare that it is the commitment and policy of the State of Alaska, consistent with the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Alaska, to work on a government-to-government basis with Alaska's sovereign Tribes, which deserve the recognition and respect accorded to other governments. The State of Alaska has a long-standing commitment to local self-government that is rooted in the belief that the best and most effective solutions to local problems are those that are conceived locally.*

*The State recognizes the value in establishing a comprehensive and mutually respectful State-Tribal relations policy in an effort to promote and enhance Tribal self-government, economic development, a clean and healthy environment, and social, cultural, spiritual, and racial diversity. The State is committed to working with Tribes to further strengthen Alaska's ability to meet the needs of Alaska's communities and families.*

*The principles set out in this Order shall be the foundation upon which State government officials, at all levels, will work with Tribal representatives to build a framework for promoting mutually respectful State-Tribal relations, protocol, and policy. “*

Thank you for your proactive consideration of this important request.

Sincerely:

President Frank Standifer III